

Memorandum for Mr. Tolson

1. Kitts had testified at the Commissioner's hearing on September 14 against [redacted] and other Omaha hoodlums, exhibiting a great deal of personal vindictiveness and the cross examination indicated it was a mutual animosity. Therefore [redacted] considered it very unlikely that Kitts would be contacting [redacted] for help after his escape.

2. Dalton feels that [redacted] has never had any reason to fear violence at the hands of Kitts; [redacted] is a nervous scary individual who has the respect neither of the hoodlums nor of decent citizens. Kitts is not known to have used violence against other hoodlums.

3. There was no known connection between the Varianos and Kitts. (However [redacted] is a sister of Benny Barrone, operator of the Last Chance Cafe in Council Bluffs, Iowa; Barrone was a known contact of Kitts in years past.)

4. SAC Dalton feels that [redacted] in the past has given only half truths and those when they were too late to act on; [redacted] wants to play both sides of the fence.

5. In view of what he considered the remoteness of the possibility that Kitts would be contacting [redacted] SAC Dalton considered it more worthwhile to supervise the handling of other leads, contact informants and generally direct and coordinate the case from the office to get maximum coverage on all possible contacts of Kitts as quickly as possible; also to review the Kitts case file to identify all old contacts and leads; also to handle phone inquiries from the press, law enforcement agencies and the Bureau.

Factors which should have indicated the presence of Kitts at the Variano residence was not too remote a possibility were as follows:

1. When Kitts was at large last February or March he did actually contact [redacted] and [redacted] furnished information to Bureau Agents although he did not disclose fully all facts regarding the contact.

2. It was quite unusual that [redacted] should receive a call from the Varianos to come over to the house immediately just a few hours after the escape of Kitts. Especially significant was the urgency of the request and that he received two phone calls.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: November 16, 1951

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (91-5670)

FROM : SAC, OMAHA (91-604)

SUBJECT: KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, Was., ET AL
Granville Office, Hospers Savings Bank
Granville, Iowa, May 28, 1950;
Citizens State Bank, Webb, Iowa
May 26, 1950
BANK ROBBERY - BURGLARY

Remytel November 2, 1951 in which it was pointed out that at the instructions of United States Attorneys at Omaha, Nebraska, Sioux City, Iowa and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, KITTS was to be interviewed at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, to ascertain his attitude towards testifying in the hereinafter entitled cases, each of which was specifically discussed with KITTS. In connection with each case KITTS stated that he was ready, willing and able to testify fully against the Subjects whose names are set out beneath each title

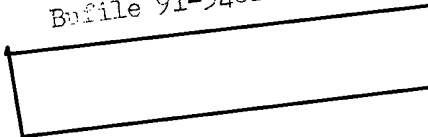
1. KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, Was., ET AL
Hurley State Bank,
Hurley, South Dakota
December 10, 1948
Bufile 91-5160

(TONY BIASE)
(CHARLES CALVIN ROBINSON)

2. KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, Was. ET AL
Bank of Taylor,
Taylor, Nebraska
June 30, 1949
Bufile 91-5375



3. KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, Was., ET AL
First National Bank of Selby,
Selby, South Dakota
August 13, 1949
Bufile 91-5402



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CC - Minneapolis
Omaha

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4. KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, Was., ET AL
Granville Office, Hoppers Savings Bank,
Granville, Iowa, May 25, 1950;
Citizens State Bank, Webb, Iowa
May 26, 1950
Bufile 91-5670

(FRANK JAMES ELLSWORTH)

5. KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, Was. ET AL
Southern Hills Bank,
Edgemont, South Dakota
May 22, 1950
Bufile 91-5673

(FRANK JAMES ELLSWORTH)

6. KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, Was.;
GEORGE EMERSON HART, Was., ET AL;
Laurens State Bank, Laurens, Iowa,
November 3, 1950
Bufile 91-5787

(GEORGE EMERSON HART, for Harboring and
Escape and Rescue violations)

KITTS answered all questions fully with the exception of those pertaining to [redacted] and BENNIE BARONE. It is noted that investigation of the Omaha Office indicates that both of these men have received silver money from KITTS and associates, same being from various bank burglaries. KITTS' apparent reason for not discussing BARONE is close personal friendship. With regard to [redacted] it is apparently KITTS' sentiments that he will lose \$5500.00 if he causes [redacted] to be prosecuted at this time. [redacted] allegedly placed this amount in escrow at Knoxville, Tennessee, for KITTS, to be used in a "fix" of the Federal impersonation charge against him there.

SA ELMER L. JACOBSEN, who conducted this interview, received the impression that KITTS is proud of the efficient way in which he testified in U. S. Commissioner's Court, Omaha, September 14, 1951, just before he escaped from the Nebraska State Penitentiary authorities. For the information of the various United States Attorneys, KITTS did a masterful job in handling the cross examination questions of various defense counsels